

20

Claim 26 (previously presented): A control method according to claim ~~21~~,²⁰

wherein the paper ejection type represents a direction of a surface of ejected paper, and the direction is face-up or face-down.

20

Claim 27 (previously presented): A control method according to claim ~~21~~,²⁰

wherein the paper ejection type is an output order of pages, and the output order is ascending or descending.

Claims 28-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A control method according to claim [[21]]

20, further comprising a determination step, of, in a case of assigning at least part of the distributed divided print job to be printed by initially assigned to the first printing apparatus to ~~another~~ the second printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, determining whether ~~the other~~ a printing apparatus which prints pages preceding to the distributed divided print job assigned to the first printing apparatus produces a face-down output,

wherein if an affirmative decision is rendered in said determination step, then in said decision step, ~~at least part of the distributed job to be printed by the printing apparatus is assigned to the other~~ the printing apparatus subjected to the determination is decided as the second printing apparatus ~~that prints the preceding pages.~~